

# Maurice Hinchey NEWS

## 22nd CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT, NEW YORK

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### **HINCHEY SAYS GOP BUDGET PLAN WOULD CAUSE SEVERE DAMAGE**

WASHINGTON - U.S. Representative Maurice Hinchey (NY-22) today expressed strong opposition to the budget resolution proposed by House Republicans. Hinchey said he would vote against the legislation, which is currently being debated on the House floor.

"The House Republican budget is outrageous," said Hinchey. "It calls for drastic cuts to programs that help people who really need the help, including sick elderly people and poor children. Even veterans of foreign wars, a group whose number we are now increasing, get shortchanged by this budget. The spending priorities it sets out will be a disaster for the 22nd District."

Each year, after the president makes his budget request, Congress passes a budget resolution for the coming fiscal year. This resolution is not binding, but it provides a guideline for the appropriations process. Rather than address the rising budget deficit or the cost of the war in Iraq, the president chose to make a massive tax cut for the wealthy the centerpiece of his proposal.

In crafting their resolution, the House Republican leadership followed the president's lead and proposed severe spending reductions to make room for the tax cut. The resolution cuts discretionary spending on programs like environmental protection, community development, public housing and education. Those cuts, however, did not provide enough additional revenue to cover the \$724 billion cost of the tax cut. To make up the shortfall, the Republican budget goes further and orders reductions in entitlement programs like food stamps, school lunches, farm programs, college grants and loans, veterans' health care, federal workers' benefits and retirement programs, Medicare, and Medicaid.

"In the view of the president and the Republican leadership, everything must take a back seat to the tax cut for the rich," Hinchey added. "This resolution ignores the cost of the war entirely, leaving that massive expense for a future supplemental budget bill. So while we're crippling vital programs, we continue to build the huge national debt."

Hinchey said he would support alternative resolutions that are being offered during today's debate. The votes on these substitutes and the Republican resolution will take place later tonight.